

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 05683

CAPETOWN PASS TO EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XA, PINS, EAID, EEC, CG, BE
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG MEETS WITH BELGIANS

REF: A) USUN 967, B) BRUSSELS 5441, C) BRUSSELS 5481

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG, IN BRUSSELS
MARCH 20 EN ROUTE TO AFRICA, MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER'S
CHEF DE CABINET (ALFRED CAHEN) AND OTHER SENIOR
BELGIAN OFFICIALS. SOUTHERN AFRICA, ZAIRE AND MIDDLE
EAST DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

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2. CAHEN ASKED AMBASSADOR YOUNG HOW HE VIEWED DEVELOP-
MENTS IN ZAIRE IN THE WAKE OF THE MARCH 17 EXECUTIONS.
YOUNG REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN TIED DOWN WITH MIDDLE
EAST PROBLEMS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND HAD HAD NO
TIME TO LOOK INTO THE ZAIRE QUESTION IN DETAIL. THE
EXECUTIONS WERE DEPLORABLE BUT THE U.S. MUST REMAIN
COMMITTED TO ZAIRE EVEN THOUGH WE WISH MOBUTU "WERE

A LITTLE WISER AND A LITTLE STRONGER." CAHEN SAID THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH YOUNG'S POSITION WHICH WAS THE SAME AS THAT TAKEN BY THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT.

3. CAHEN THEN BRIEFLY REVIEWED BELGIAN POLICY TOWARDS ZAIRE FOLLOWING THE EXECUTIONS ALONG LINES REFTEL B, STEPPING THAT POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN ZAIRE WAS THE RESULT OF ECONOMIC DISLOCATION AND ATTENDANT SOCIAL MISERY, AND CONCLUDING THAT IT WAS NOW MORE IMPERATIVE THAN EVER TO PRESS ON WITH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

UNDER THE MOBUTU PLAN. HE TOLD YOUNG THAT IMF DIRECTOR WITTEVEEN HAD BEEN IN BRUSSELS THAT DAY TO DISCUSS MOBUTU PLAN AND HAD AGREED WITH BELGIANS ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PLAN AND ON NECESSITY OF PROVIDING AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE BANK OF ZAIRE. (MFA AFRICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR LE BRUN TOLD US LATER THAT BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN KINSHASA MADE DEMARCHE TO ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT MARCH 20 SEEKING CLARIFICATIONS OF ZAIRE'S RECENT ACTIONS, INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS OF BELGIAN INTERFERENCE IN ZAIRE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. LE BRUN SAID THAT ZAIRIAN REACTION TO BELGIAN APPROACH WAS "POSITIVE" AND THAT BELGIUM WAS SATISFIED.)

4. AMBASSADOR YOUNG GAVE BELGIANS A TOUR D'HORIZON OF SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, BRINGING THEM UP TO DATE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN, AND U.S. THINKING ABOUT, RHODESIA, CONFIDENTIAL

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NAMIBIA AND ANGOLA. HE SAID THAT SUPPORT OF EC-NINE WOULD BE REQUIRED ON NAMIBIA ONCE SWAPO IS IN LINE. CAHEN SAID THAT NINE HAVE STAYED IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE U.S. ON THESE ISSUES AND REMAIN READY TO BE HELPFUL. ON SOUTH AFRICA, CAHEN SAID THAT THE NINE SEEM TO BE DIVIDED, WITH TWO COUNTRIES RELUCTANT TO PRESSURE SOUTH AFRICA, TWO OTHER COUNTRIES "TOO EAGER" TO DO SO, AND THE REST IN THE MIDDLE. CAHEN ASKED YOUNG TO RETURN TO BRUSSELS AGAIN AND TALK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET ON THESE ISSUES. HE ADDED THAT SIMONET PLANNED TO VISIT AFRICA'S "PROGRESSIVE STATES" (ANGOLA, ZAMBIA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND TANZANIA) IN MAY OR JUNE AT THE INSTIGATION OF ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR DE ALMEIDA.

5. AMBASSADOR YOUNG ALSO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED LEBANON THE MIDDLE EAST, AND CAHEN GAVE A RUN-DOWN ON SIMONET'S CAIRO VISIT ALONG LINES REFTEL C. CHAMBERS

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